

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

RESEARCH ACTIVITY PANEL

Meeting Minutes  
Friday, April 12, 1996  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Seminar Room, Shore Facility Del Norte  
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A) Members in Attendance

Greg Cailliet, Moss Landing Marine Labs - Chair  
Rick Starr, U.C. Sea Grant - Vice Chair  
Andrew DeVogelaere, MBNMS - Research Coordinator

Steve Eittreim, U.S. Geological Survey  
Don Potts, U.C. Santa Cruz  
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS  
Jan Roletto, GFNMS/CBNMS  
Bruce Robison, MBARI  
Leslie Rosenfeld, Naval Postgraduate School  
Randy Kochevar, MBA  
Deborah Johnston, CDFG  
George Boehlert, NOAA/PFEG

B) Special Guests in Attendance

Jennifer Neilson, Hopkins Marine Station  
John Getz, CDFG  
Richard Parrish, NMFS/PFEG  
Special Guest from Japan

II. CONSENT ITEMS

A) Approval of March 8, meeting minutes (Cailliet)

The Draft minutes from the March 8, 1996 meeting were approved as amended.

III. PRESENTATIONS

A) Recent developments at MLML (Cailliet) -- Greg Cailliet reported briefly on the status of Moss Landing Marine Labs (MLML) plans to build a new facility. MLML has received funds from FEMA and the state coffers to apply toward construction plans for the new laboratories, though money is still needed to finish the project. The property for the new facility is in escrow and the lawsuit against MLML has been dropped by opponents of the project. MLML is processing an EIR through Monterey County to satisfy the CEQA requirements because of a purchase of 21+ acres and are dedicating a significant portion of it as wetlands, sand dune, and cultural preserves.

MLML is in the middle of a major fund raising effort through the Friends of MLML. A MLML Newsletter is available for RAP Members.

B) Effects of Lights on the eyes of deepsea fish and invertebrates: how long can we continue to operate in the dark (R. Parrish) -- Richard Parrish raised concerns that the strong lights on the remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) used in deepsea research could be inadvertently causing permanent damage to the eyes of benthic species. Parrish urged RAP members to seek more information about this problem and advocated the reduction of ROV use until more is known about the effects of light on deepsea fish.

RAP members discussed the legitimacy of the concern and agreed that they, as a community, had a responsibility to conduct research in a manner that doesn't result in permanent damage to the species whenever possible. If there is research being proposed that causes potential damage to the marine organisms then the RAP should make recommendations that correct the problems or seek new information.

Parrish recommended that the RAP ask the National Undersea Research Program (NURP) to consider this subject a high priority for their submersible work, and it should be a topic of discussion at the May NURP Monterey Bay Initiative Workshop. The objective of the study would be to find out what the effects are and to adjust the lights to accommodate the visual requirements of the fish. NURP could also be asked to fund a workshop to learn more on this subject.

RAP members considered this a chance to be proactive and formed a special sub-committee to investigate the matter further. Sub-committee members were identified as: Randy Kochevar, who will act as the point person for the sub-committee and will provide regular progress reports to the RAP; Bruce Robison, Geoff Wheat, and Richard Parrish. Bill McFarland might also be willing to work on this and should be contacted.

C) American Fisheries Society (AFS) Meeting in Monterey in August 1997 (Neilson) -- Jennifer Neilson, from Hopkins Marine Station, briefed RAP members about the National AFS meeting scheduled to be in Monterey in August 1997 at the Monterey Conference Center -- Marriott. It promises to be a large meeting attracting more than 2,000 people. Neilson shared ideas for a symposia highlighting potential research interests and requested input from the RAP.

Monterey will be hosting the August 1997 National AFS meeting for the first time and it will be the organization's first time back in California after a hiatus of several years.

Three main topics will be addressed at the conference: 1) Pelagic Fisheries - combine both Atlantic and Pacific issues; 2) Elasmobranch biology and conservation; and 3) New perspectives on deepsea research -- a focus on technology and understanding marine biology at a different level. Each topic will ideally be given a full to 1/2 day of attention and local scientists will be used as much as possible. Calls for proposals will be available in August 1996.

Neilson's goal for the Monterey Conference is to use it as a vehicle for changing the AFS focus from fresh water to more marine/ocean oriented issues.

It was suggested that a day be scheduled when participants could visit sites outside the meeting center for special sessions. Reservations to attend special 'off-site symposia' would be made in advance. The attraction for participants would be both the speaker and the off-site location. Transportation could be arranged. Jennifer Neilson was agreeable to the idea, but indicated that local research groups would be responsible for organizing the satellite sessions.

RAP members volunteered to network in the area to help the project. In addition, Andrew DeVogelaere advised that the MBNMS researcher database be accessed to provide more information about researchers in the area

Greg Cailliet suggested that the National AFS Conference consider a Japanese presence at the Pelagic Fisheries symposia.

Jennifer Neilson will stay in touch with the RAP and keep the working group informed as details of the Conference progress.

While on the subject of conferences, Randy Kochevar announced the International Deep-Sea Biology Conference is scheduled for Monterey in September/October of 1997 at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. About 250 people are expected to attend. Randy commented that deep sea is 'under utilized' at present. This may be a chance to be pro-active on a conservation issue and begin to strategize and implement measures that protect the environment before damage is done.

#### IV. MBNMS REQUEST FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS (A. DeVogelaere)

Andrew provided RAP members with a brief overview of the research budget.

Approximately 32K remains unobligated and Andrew requested input and recommendations from the RAP. In general, the MBNMS prefers that the revenues be used to fund projects that will result in information that is readily used by resource managers. Following discussion, RAP members agreed that graduate students, in their final year, be funded for the time they need to complete writing their dissertations. The money would assist students, provide useful information and would be a great PR opportunity for the Sanctuary. Graduate students competing for the Sanctuary stipend would be asked to submit short proposals on projects of resource management interest. Furthermore, the Sanctuary could cooperate with the Aquarium to publish a MBNMS Volume series, or start a series of MBNMS NOAA Technical Reports.

RAP members requested that some consideration be given to unsolicited proposals that have been received by the Sanctuary office, and, if funds are available, to fund a second graduate student.

Finally, it was suggested that funds be used to develop written review of resources management topics of interest (e.g., impacts of moorings on the sea floor, effects of low flying crafts on bird colonies).

#### V. REVIEW OF RAP MEMBERSHIP (A. DeVogelaere)

As requested at the last RAP meeting, Andrew and his intern, Stacey Urner, reviewed the RAP minutes for decisions regarding membership. They found that memberships were based on invitations to research institutions, that at-large memberships were possible (by RAP vote) to provide experts on the RAP for specific subjects, that members could designate alternates to attend meetings,

that there was interest in regional representation, and that membership has been based in part on the historical interest of different agencies and individuals. RAP meetings have always been open to the public.

Stacey and Andrew also made a chart of attendance at RAP meetings and found that: some institutions were not represented when interested individuals left the organization, and that some institutions were rarely represented at RAP meetings.

Based on the review, staff recommendations, and discussion, the RAP decided to:

- have only major research institutions be considered for institutional membership
- remove NOAA/OCRM as an institutional member
- remove OAB as an institutional member
- remove CIRIOS as an institutional member (Gary Sharp will contact Bill Head to see if it is appropriate for him to become the CSUMB representative, or will be considered as an at-large member at the next meeting)
- remove the California Coastal Commission as an institutional member (Les Strnad now be an at-large member)
- search for new members to replace DOI and The Moro Bay Foundation
- invite Caroline Pomeroy as an at-large member representing social sciences
- continue encouraging open meetings for all interested parties
- continue allowing alternates at meetings

#### VII. REVIEW OF THE SANCTUARY CURRENTS SYMPOSIUM (R. Starr)

RAP members were asked to provide their input on the Sanctuary Currents Symposium and to make suggestions for improvements for next year's program. In general, everyone was pleased with the new format and commented on the benefits gained from cooperative efforts with the education and conservation communities in this venture. Suggestions for improvements included:

- Target individuals for a more effective response;
- Include a research element that could happen concurrently with the other workshops in order to meet all needs;
- Try to arrange a larger room for the Poster Session;
- Schedule a feature speaker to run a discussion session about the symposium theme and invite educators to it.

The group discussed different themes for next year and decided to focus on biodiversity, habitats associated with biodiversity, and some of the work that is being done by the U.S. Geological Survey. This, it was felt, would link easily with the education and conservation groups.

Don Potts, and Steve Eittreim volunteered to work on developing the next symposium. Andrew volunteered to work on next year's symposium along with Rick Starr (who mentioned that he would work on the Symposium, but not to the extent he did this year), and Jane Caffrey or Mark Silberstein were recommended as very useful possible participants.

#### VIII. RESEARCH COORDINATOR REPORT (A. DeVogelaere)

Andrew provided an update on Sanctuary research activities. Highlights are as follows:

- Concerns over Kelp Harvesting practices in Monterey are continuing to grow. Divers are alarmed and hotel owners are upset because the sea otters have moved away temporarily. RAP members reiterated that this is not an ecological issue; it is a multiple use conflict and a social issue.
- The site characterization will be finished on May 13; the RAP can review the project from May 15 - 31;
- The Cambria Desalination Plant looks to be a 'done deal', though the monitoring plan is still being modified;
- The California Biodiversity Council (CBC) met this past month -- Andrew De Vogelaere, Greg Cailliet, and Don Potts gave presentations. NOAA has become a member of the Council through the MBNMS. There may be funding for projects in the area through the CBC and an opportunity for follow-up projects through Robert Patton, at University of California, Davis;
- Nicole Crane has received a grant from the Packard Foundation and Oceanic Society to continue the Sanctuary kelp monitoring program;
- John Pearse and his students are continuing the field work on the Sanctuary intertidal shore monitoring program;
- Gary Griggs, UCSC, is updating his SeaTechnology publication that review the research programs in the greater Monterey Bay;
- The Sanctuary is mourning the loss of David Packard and Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown.

#### IX. NORTHERN MBNMS RESEARCH COORDINATOR REPORT (J. Roletto)

Jan Roletto, GFNMS/CBNMS provided a report on activities happening in the northern part of the Sanctuary. Highlights are as follows:

- A 6-month report for the intertidal project will be completed by the end of May;
- A tug boat sank in the GFNMS -- diesel fuel and oil went into the MBNMS. The accident initiated a oil spill response maneuver with Beachwatch volunteers. Aerial survey showed the diesel fuel was dissipating and probably wouldn't reach the shore. Mark Pickett, MBNMS Assistant Manager, Scott Kathey, MBNMS Program Specialist, and Patrick Cotter, MBNMS Environmental Scientist investigated the site;
- The ATOC project will be releasing a Final Environmental Assessment to use an alternative source transmission much farther off shore. The source will be suspended and will emit a lower transmission;
- Over the weekend another dead whale beached off of Bodega Bay.

#### X. SHORT DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### A) Review of the SRD permit process (A. DeVogelaere/G. Cailliet)

I have received only half a dozen comments on what scientists feel are minor impact research experiments that do not require permits. There is still time to send in lists of project types.

Related issues on permits have arisen for the Moss Landing Harbor District and in the state of Washington.

##### B) Fort Ord offshore studies (S. Eittreim)

Planned work is at somewhat of a standstill while a route is being sought for passage of the funding from the Army Corps of Engineers to the project account at the SJ State Univ. Foundation. As of one week ago, hopes were high that this hurdle had finally been overcome, and people at Harding Lawson Associates (the contractor for the onshore cleanup work at Fort Ord) are working on it. But until the check arrives, we have an assortment of work planned at MLML, UCSC, CDF&G, that is not progressing. Hopefully by the time of the next RAP meeting, we will have an answer...

C) McArthur Cruise (A. DeVogelaere/A. King)

The RAP sub-committee and MBNMS staff have completed the McArthur project review. The McArthur cruise will have four legs between May 21 and June 8. The following projects were selected: Mapping benthic habitats in the MBNMS Big Creek Ecological Reserve and adjacent coast (Yoklavich et al.), Temporal and spatial studies on the distribution of zooplankton within the MBNMS (Marinovic), Shipboard measurements of coastally-trapped disturbances and sea-breeze (Nuss), Seafloor Geologic Mapping (Eittreim et al.), Sediment transport; high-resolution acoustic profiling (Eittreim et al.), Monitoring the Pioneer Seamount ATOC transmitter using the SOSUS array at Point Sur (Collins).

D) International Marine Biodiversity (IMBI) Update - (D. Potts)

After a hiatus caused by hospitalization (independently) of two members of the IMBI Working Group, we are now pushing forward again. Nine Californian institutions are now actively committed to the IMBI concept: CAS, CMC, HML, MBA, MBARI, MBNMS, MLML, SBMNH, UCSC. Senior administrators at UCSC have expressed strong interest in hosting IMBI facilities on UCSC-controlled land at Fort ORD. Preliminary discussions have begun with the Packard Foundation about supporting a regional workshop to develop a concrete IMBI proposal. The Director of the terrestrial and freshwater ATBI at the Guanacaste Conservation Area in Costa Rica has invited members of the IMBI working group to visit their site, and also proposed that we consider the Guanacaste coastline as a possible international site linked to the Californian program. The first public announcement of the formation of IMBI was made as a presentation to the California Biodiversity Council Workshop in Monterey on 27 March.

E) NURP deep sea research workshop (G. Wheat)

The West Coast NURC is sponsoring a workshop for developing a science plan for a Monterey Bay Initiative. This workshop will be held on May 16 and 17 in Moss Landing at the MBARI facilities. Please contact westnurc@ims.alaska.edu if you would like to attend. More information is available on our web site <http://www.wcnurc.alaska.edu:8000/> including the agenda, lists of participants, and members of the steering committee. At present we have about 46 people interested in participating in the workshop, 15 of which are from out of state. If you have any questions, please send them to me at 408-633-7033 or wheat@mbari.org.

F) Mussel Watch Update (M. Stephenson)

Legislation to fund Mussel Watch was introduced by Assemblyman McPherson and the legislation will be reviewed by the Water, Parks and Wildlife committee of the assembly on April, 9th. Pat Cotter, Jane DeLay and Mark Stephenson will attend the hearing. Brian Baird of the Resources agency is also pushing his agency to

find some funds for the program. We should know within a few months if the program is refunded.

#### G) Electronic Communications (A. King)

The MBNMS Web Site (<http://montereybay.nos.noaa.gov>) continues to be refined and grow. Three databases now exist on-line:

1. The Coastal and Marine Educational, Conservation and Advocacy Directory for the Area Encompassed by the MBNMS (located under the Education Subpage)
2. The MBNMS/GFNMS/CINMS Research Institution Directory (located under the Research Subpage)
3. The MBNMS/GFNMS/CINMS Researcher Directory (located under the Research Subpage) - This now contains all updates given to Aaron last year.

Additionally, subpages now exist for a Sanctuary Calendar, local marine related jobs, a "chat" session on Sanctuary Issues, MBNMS press releases, RAP and other working group/SAC minutes and agendas, and more.

The Sanctuary now has four email lists it uses on a regular basis:

1. [rap@igc.apc.org](mailto:rap@igc.apc.org) - for communicating with RAP members only
2. [rapinterest@igc.apc.org](mailto:rapinterest@igc.apc.org) - for communicating with folks interested in Sanctuary RAP and marine research related topics
3. [mcarthur@igc.apc.org](mailto:mcarthur@igc.apc.org) - for communicating with folks generally interested with the issue of Sanctuary allocated NOAA ship time
4. [mac-96@igc.apc.org](mailto:mac-96@igc.apc.org) - for communicating with researchers participating in the Spring, '96 McArthur Cruise

#### H) Elephant Seal Population expansion at Highway 1 (A. DeVogelaere/J. Harvey)

Nothing new, interagency coordination continues.

#### I) Permit Report (S. Kathey)

See handout.

### XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) Seminar at MBARI by Lynn Conrad-Johnson, a candidate for the Education Coordinator position for MBARI -- talking about ways to mesh the ROV observations with other observations.

2) There will be a Pacific Climate Conference at Asilomar titled 'Events and Extremes of California,' in the Acacia Heather Room beginning Sunday, April 13 through Tuesday, April 15. Monday's discussion will focus on historical perspectives of droughts, and on Tuesday evening there will be a discussion of the 1995 floods by local researchers.

3) Assemblyman Bruce McPherson presented the SMWP bill to the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee. It passed and will be heard by the Appropriations Committee on Wednesday, May 15.

4) The next RAP meeting is on Friday, May 10 in the Ocean View Conference Room at the Monterey Bay Aquarium from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

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FINAL Minutes

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